UCSF
Newsbreak

News for the UCSF Campus Community VOL. 13, NO. 2 JANUARY 16, 1998

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Action will be focus of new diversity committee

By ANDY EVANGELISTA

Their roots differ in many ways, but their career paths and commitment have placed Michael Adams and Jane Norbeck on common ground.

Tracing his roots back five generations in the United States, Adams grew up in a segregated Omaha, Neb., when African-Americans were just beginning to break some barriers. He was the first black newspaper courier in his neighborhood. While his father was denied appointment as the first black city attorney after posting the top score on a civil service exam, the younger Adams later became the first black city planner in Omaha's history.

Norbeck

Jane Norbeck, third generation Norwegian-American, was raised in rural South Dakota where people had shed cultural ties in the name of assimilation. In most towns, there was one language and one skin color.

Adams went on to hold important civil rights enforcement posts in Nebraska, and eventually came to UCSF to direct affirmative action programs. Norbeck became a public health nurse who studied access to care in inner cities, and is now the Dean of the School of Nursing.

They are the new co-chairs of the Chancellor's Steering Committee on Diversity, whose 36 members — faculty, staff and students — truly reflect a campus of many people of many backgrounds.

The committee held an all-day retreat last month in preparation for a crucial year in which recommendations will be put into action. In one session, each committee member spoke freely of her or his cultural heritage. It was more than an

(See **Diversity** on page 3)

Governor's budget proposes increase for UC

Gov. Pete Wilson has proposed an 8 percent state budget increase for the University of California in 1998-99, including funds to cover a 5 percent reduction in fees for undergraduates who are California residents.

The governor's plan calls for an increase of $175 million in state general funds for UC or a total of $2.3 billion for next year.

The budget plan would restore faculty salaries to competitive levels, restore a $9.5 million undesignated cut from the University's 1997-98 state budget and provide revenue that eliminates the need for a 10 percent increase in student fees. Moreover, the budget plan provides $22.5 million to allow a 5 percent cut in fees for undergraduate California residents. The fee cut was called for by Assembly Bill 1318, approved by the state Legislature and signed by the governor.

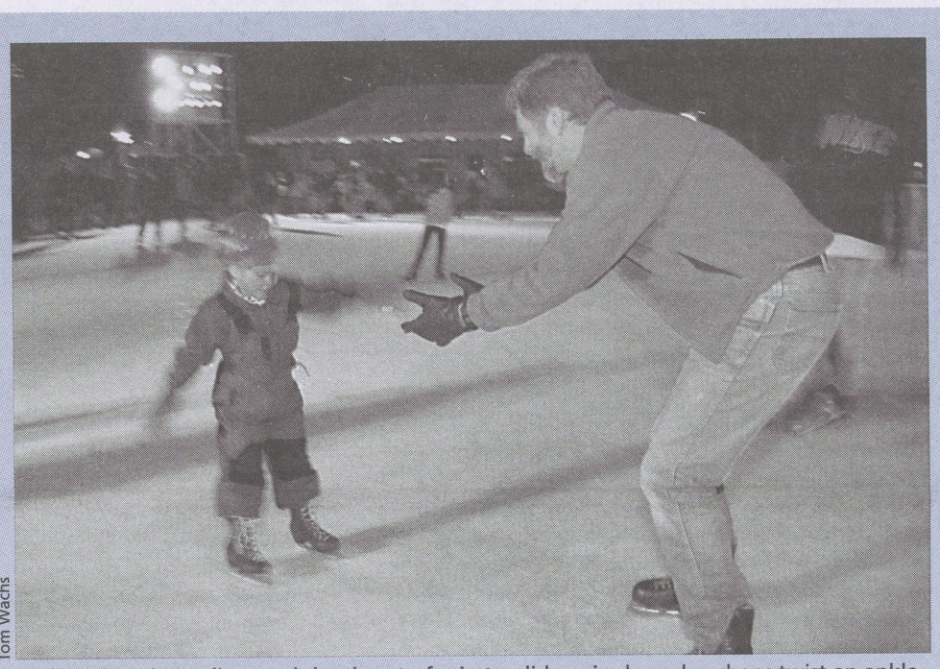
The 5 percent fee cut will reduce undergraduate student fees by $190 a year to $4,022. UC Regents are expected to approve the fee reduction at their meeting Thursday and Friday at UCSF-Laurel Heights.

Because state funding offsets a loss in fee revenue, the University's actual spending increase would be 5.5 percent, not the 8 percent increase in state funding.

The governor's budget plan also provides an additional:

- $5 million for student outreach and school improvement programs, which will help fund new efforts to attract more students from diverse backgrounds to the University by improving student achievement.

(See **Regents** on page 8)


Tom Wachs

Staff and students disregard the threat of rain to glide, mingle and perhaps twist an ankle or two during EMPACT's UCSF Family Night at the Kristi Yamaguchi Embarcadero Ice Skating Rink, Jan. 13. Shown here are Daryl and Rachel Browne.

"Trench Fever" threatens homeless AIDS patients

By JEFFREY NORRIS

A bacterial infection that afflicted tens of thousands of soldiers in the trenches during the first World War is making a comeback, threatening the lives of homeless AIDS patients.

The discovery was made by a research team led by Jane Koehler, microbiologist and assistant professor of medicine at UCSF, who set out to identify the microbes responsible for a chronic, relapsing infection called bacillary angiomatosis. Although it is curable with common antibiotics, the illness, in addition to making its victims sick and feverish, often goes undiagnosed, Koehler said.

In AIDS patients, who have weakened immune systems, infection with the disease-causing microbes causes skin lesions that are easily mistaken for Kaposi's sarcoma, another disease that often strikes people with AIDS.

In immune-compromised individuals, bacillary angiomatosis can lead to serious complications including anemia, weight loss, the growth of non-malignant tumors that can hinder breathing or other vital functions, damage to the valves that guide blood flow through the heart, and death.

In a study published in the December 25 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*, Koehler and colleagues surveyed 49 bacillary angiomatosis patients and determined which bacterial species were associated with the illness.

Koehler's research team found that, depending on socioeconomic characteristics, AIDS patients diagnosed with bacillary angiomatosis were infected with two distinct species of bacteria. A species called Bartonella quintana, first identified by Koehler as a bacillary angiomatosis-causing microbe in 1992, was the source of infection in 23 patients in the study, most of whom were poor, homeless and exposed to body lice.

B. quintana is the cause of trench fever, which sickened troops confined to trenches in Europe during the first World War. At that time trench fever was found to be associated with body lice infestation. B. quintana bacteria live within lice and are transmitted from human to human by the louse. Trench fever was not discovered in the United States until 1992, when 10 cases were identified among the homeless population in Seattle, Koehler said.

Thus far, no clear genetic distinctions between B. quintana strains that have sickened the immune-competent and

(See **Trench** on page 8)

Medal of Freedom winner to speak Martin Luther King Jr. week

By PAULA MURPHY

Renowned for her advocacy for minority rights and women's issues, Wilma Mankiller, former Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation, was awarded the Medal of Freedom by President Clinton on January 15. Mankiller, the first woman to hold such a title in the Cherokee Nation, the second largest tribe in the United States, will speak at UCSF as part of Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration Week, January 20-23.

Mankiller

At one of many events honoring Dr. King, Mankiller will give the keynote address on Thursday, Jan. 22 from noon to 1 p.m. in Cole Hall. She will be introduced by prominent UCSF neurosurgeon Charles Wilson, who is part Cherokee.

Mankiller was born and raised until the age of 10 in Tahlequah, the capital of the Cherokee Nation in Oklahoma. Her family then moved to California as part of a government relocation program. Mankiller remained in the Bay Area, attending Skyline Junior College in San Bruno then San Francisco State College, until her return to Oklahoma in 1976.

Mankiller has overcome not only the poverty and dislocation of her youth but also physical ailments that have haunted her as an adult. In 1979 she was seriously injured in a car accident, and was shortly thereafter afflicted with myasthenia gravis, a chronic neuromuscular disease that causes varying degrees of weakness in the voluntary muscles of the body. Due to genetic kidney disease, she had a kidney transplant in 1990.

These obstacles have not stopped Mankiller from becoming a civil rights leader, even after her term as principal chief ended in 1995. She is a strong advocate of tribal self-sufficiency and works with governmental agencies on American Indian issues.

Citing the student occupation of Alcatraz Island in 1969 as her "political awakening," Mankiller's introduction to politics as a profession came gradually. In 1983 Mankiller became deputy chief, under newly-elected principal chief Ross Swimmer, of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. When Swimmer was nominated to head the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Washington, D.C., Mankiller assumed his duties, as dictated by Cherokee law. In an historic election in 1987, she ran for the post and won, becoming the first woman to be elected to head a major Native American tribe.

Known for her witty and captivating storytelling, Mankiller's talk at UCSF will explore the connections between race and gender that inspire people to work together for social justice.

MLK remembered at UCSF

TUESDAY, JAN. 20

- MLK Awards Ceremony, 3:30-4:30 p.m., Cole Hall. Chancellor Haile Debas invites the campus to hear this year's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Award winners. Faculty: Dan Lowenstein; Staff: Stella Hsu; Students: Jennifer Danek and Kyra Bobinet.
- "One Man's Vision and Our Struggle For Humanity," a one-hour video collage of Dr. King's life, will be shown continuously, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m, in the Medical Sciences Lobby, daily.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 21

- San Francisco Supervisor Amos Brown presents a lecture, "Of King and Country," 12:10 to 1 p.m., HSW 300.Brown discusses Dr. King's dream and what Americans can do to help realize his dream.

THURSDAY JAN. 22

- "A Conversation with Wilma Mankiller," noon to 1 p.m., Cole Hall. *(See story at left.)*
- Cole Hall Cinema presents "Soul Food," 5:45 and 8:15 p.m. (Showing again on Friday, 6:30 and 9 p.m.) A matriarch dishes out generous helpings of love, wisdom and "soul food."

FRIDAY, JAN. 23

- Poets On Parnassus, 4:30 p.m., in Toland Hall. An open reading with guest poets. Poets should arrive at 4:15 p.m.

Rutherford named director of UCSF preventive medicine residency program

George W. Rutherford, UCSF adjunct professor in epidemiology and biostatistics, has been appointed director of the new UCSF Preventive Medicine Residency Program, part of a joint program with the UC Berkeley School of Public Health.

Rutherford

Rutherford is well known for his research contributions regarding the epidemiology and public health issues of the AIDS epidemic. He has held several key public health positions at the local and state level.

As director of the UCSF program, Rutherford's goal is to prepare physicians for practice of preventive medicine and public health in the next century and to establish it as the best preventive medicine residency program in the nation. Physicians will be trained for careers in public health practice, medical management, or preventive medical research and teaching.

Rutherford's experience in the public health field includes service as an Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer for the Center for Disease Control from 1982 to 1984, while also carrying out duties as director of the Immunization and Tropical Disease Division in the New York City Department of Health. From 1985 to 1990, he was director of the AIDS Office in the San Francisco Department of Public Health.

"Dr. Rutherford has exceptional skills as an administrator as evidenced by his accomplishments at the San Francisco health department, " said Steve Hulley, chair and professor of the UCSF department of epidemiology and biostatistics. "He has the ability to attract first rate people around him and under his leadership, the AIDS Office changed rapidly from being a typical county health department into one of the world's premier AIDS research groups and the sponsor of an annual national AIDS conference."

Rutherford was the state's leading public health official in the area of infectious disease epidemiology from 1990 to 1992, with an appointment as the state epidemiologist for the California Department of Health Services. In 1993, he was named state health officer, serving for two years as the top physician and chief public health official for the state health department.

In 1995 he was appointed associate dean for the UCB School of Public Health as well as the director of the UCB Preventive Medicine Residency Program.

Rutherford graduated from Duke University School of Medicine in 1978. He received three degrees from Stanford University: an MA in history and a BS in chemistry, both in 1975, and a BA in classics in 1974. He completed his pediatric residency at the UC San Diego Medical Center in 1982.

He lives in Piedmont with his wife and their six children.

Tom Wachs

Samuel Barondes, director of the Center for Neurobiology and Psychiatry, stands beside his likeness on canvas at its debut Jan. 12 in the Lange Reading Room of the Campus Library.

Portrait Unveiling

Chancellor Haile Debas was on hand to unveil the portrait created by Millicent Tomkins, widow of esteemed biochemistry professor Gordon Tomkins. The painting, which features Barondes in an impassioned stance, will be hung in the Langley Porter Auditorium alongside past directors of the Langley Porter Psychiatric Institute, a position Barondes held for seven years.

An author of more than 200 published articles and the Scientific American volume Molecules and Mental Illness (W.H. Freeman), Barondes' latest book, Mood Genes, will be published by Freeman in April.

Private Support

UCSF is pleased to acknowledge the following gifts/pledges of $25,000 or more from individuals, corporations and foundations received December 7, 1997 - January 3, 1998.

$1,000,000 or more
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Nancy Nies Byl
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Natalie Carmel Prager-Hertzmann
Mr. and Mrs. Claude N. Rosenberg Jr.
Sun Microsystems Inc.
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Appointments

Courtney Broaddus, UCSF associate professor of medicine: Appointed chief of the division of pulmonary and critical care medicine at San Francisco General Hospital. Broaddus takes over from Philip Hopewell, who has been appointed associate dean, School of Medicine, at SFGH.

Broaddus received her bachelor's degree from Duke University and her medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania. She came to UCSF in 1983 as a pulmonary fellow at the Cardiovascular Research Institute, joining the faculty in 1986.

Her research interests include the molecular mechanisms of interaction of asbestos and the pleural mesothelial cell and the study of lung and pleural injuries.

Diane S. Colby, adjunct professor, department of biochemistry and assistant dean, UCSF School of Medicine: Appointed to the US Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) Step 1 Test Material Development Committee for Biochemistry by the Federation of State Medical Boards of the United States and the National Board of Medical Examiners.

Colby will serve concurrently as a member of the NBME Biochemistry Test Committee that develops the Biochemistry Subject Tests. Subject tests are developed by the NBME in the basic and clinical medical sciences for schools and other institutions with an interest in the education of physicians or other health professionals for the purpose of assessing educational achievement.

Colby

Publications

Anil K. Lalwani, MD, of the department of otolaryngology–head and neck surgery: Published a textbook, *Pediatric Otology and Neurotology by Lippincott-Raven*. The book was edited by Lalwani and Kenneth Grenfast.

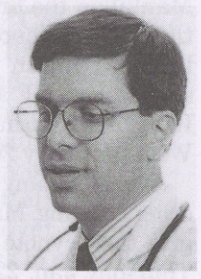
Honors & Awards

Christine Guthrie, professor of biochemistry: Elected to fellowship by the American Academy of Microbiology, the only honorific leadership group devoted entirely to microbiologists and the science of microbiology. More than 1,300 Academy Fellows from more than 27 countries have been elected and each has demonstrated scientific excellence, originality, and leadership; high ethical standards; and scholarly and creative achievement. The Fellows represent all of microbiology, including basic and applied research, teaching, public health, industry and government service.

Guthrie

Karen L. Pliskin of the Medical Anthropology program: Awarded the Steven Polgar Prize by the Society for Medical Anthropology at the annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association in Washington, D.C., November, 1997, for her paper, "Verbal Intercourse and Sexual Communication: Impediments to STD Prevention", Medical Anthropology Quarterly 11(1):89-109, 1997.

Eric Small, UCSF associate clinical professor of medicine and urology, co-director of the UCSF Urologic Oncology Program: Selected to join the CaP Cure Therapy Consortium. CaP Cure, the Association for the Cure of Cancer of the Prostate, is a public charity based in Santa Monica that funds prostate cancer research. Founded by Michael Milken, CaP Cure has provided more than $50 million in funds for basic and clinical research since its establishment in 1993.


Small

Small will receive a rolling award for his research and will interact with leading clinical investigators in the field. In addition, CaP Cure has awarded Small with a one-year $100,000 research award for his work using dendritic cells to create a vaccine to fight advanced prostate cancer.

"We consider Dr. Small to be a rapidly rising star in the prostate cancer research community. We also view the UCSF Cancer Center as a growing national resource in basic and clinical research searching for the cure of all malignancies," said Howard Soule, PhD, managing director of the CaP Cure Therapy Consortium.

Eric M. Verdin, UCSF professor of medicine: Joined the Gladstone Institute of Virology and Immunology as a senior investigator. The Gladstone Institute is affiliated with UCSF and located at San Francisco General Hospital (SFGH). Verdin's research interests include fundamental studies of HIV transcription, Tat action and, more recently, studies of how HIV kills T-cells.

"We are delighted that Eric is joining the institute. He will add an exciting new dimension to our HIV research program," said Warner Greene, director of the Gladstone Institute of Virology and Immunology and UCSF professor of medicine, microbiology and immunology.

The Gladstone Institute of Virology and Immunology and the Gladstone Institute of Cardiovascular Disease, both located at SFGH, are supported by an endowment from the J. David Gladstone Institutes. J. David Gladstone was a prominent real estate developer who died in 1971. His will created a testamentary trust that reflects his long personal interest in medical research.

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Diabetes Teaching Center broadens its scope

By PAULA MURPHY

People from as far away as Eureka and even Alaska come to UCSF to learn how to better manage diabetes. Diabetic adults and children, ranging from preschoolers to high schoolers, visit the Diabetes Teaching Center throughout the year to attend workshops on diabetes management. They learn not only how to gain control of treatment, but also gain invaluable support from one another on how to cope with a disease that afflicts 15.7 million Americans.

For 20 years, the Diabetes Teaching Center has been conducting the workshops, which span a four-day period, for people with both Type I and Type II diabetes. Last fall, the Center began teaching one- and two-day diabetes management classes in foreign languages — Chinese, Spanish and Russian — that tackle language, as well as cultural, barriers.

The foreign language classes have been popular so far and seem to be filling a need in the ethnically rich Bay Area. "The classes have always been full and they've been a lot of fun," said Gloria Yee, a registered nurse and the business coordinator for the Center. "Up to now there have not been any real formal classes, all have been one-to-ones, so to have a group of people together has been phenomenal. The group gets support from each other that an educator could not provide."

Usually the programs begin with an icebreaker, a way of introducing members of the group and making them feel comfortable. But that's hardly necessary in the foreign language classes, Yee said. "We ask people where they're from. If it's the Chinese class we ask where they're from in China, Hong Kong, what village, when they came to America, and inevitably someone is from the same area," Yee said.

"It's the same thing in the Russian class. No matter how great your program is you can't provide that — people bringing in this wonderful information for each other. But it's great because they don't feel so isolated. It's not such a weird thing that they have diabetes, look at all these other people who have diabetes too."

The foreign language classes not only address the isolation and language barriers that may inhibit the diabetic's self-care but also the special cultural and ethnic traditions that can create obstacles for diabetics.

"With special language classes we gear towards special ethnic foods," Yee said. "Chinese food has its own type of carbohydrate counting and foods are very different. For example, you would not see in a regular nutrition book how many grams of carbs a pork bun has or a special noodle. So I would address all those special issues."

Yee tells of one particular culture where hosts must eat with the guests. "It's not time for you to eat or your blood sugars are not at the time where you need to eat but you feel you have to eat because you have company," Yee explained. "Authority helps. I've literally said 'OK, I'm going to write you a note so you can tell your guests that you can't eat because the doctors and nurses say it's not time for you to eat yet.'"

The foreign language classes teach "survival skills" and serve as an introduction to diabetes care. More intensive four-day classes are offered in English for adults and children which delve into the issues of diabetes management. These classes include a full physical with a physician, discussion of current research in diabetes, blood glucose checks, carbohydrate counting, introduction to the latest devices for delivering insulin and monitoring blood glucose, nutritional information, as well as counseling with a clinical social worker.

> **"You would not see in a regular nutrition book how many grams of carbs a pork bun has.... So I would address all those special issues."**
>
> –GLORIA YEE, RN

"Our program is really a luxury — to really spend time with them, to feel out what their obstacles are," said Maureen McGrath, program coordinator and nurse practitioner. "The regimen is demanding — four shots a day, at least four blood sugars a day, carbohydrate counts and how to adjust your insulin for increased activity and increased carbohydrates." Because of all of the factors involved in diabetes care, the program cannot address all of the diabetics' individual issues but it can address the major principles of care. "When you ask people to make major lifestyle changes, we know — we're not naive — it takes more than four days."

A significant aspect of the classes is that they are taught by diabetics. Both Yee and McGrath have Type I diabetes, which used to be known as juvenile diabetes, and have been living with the disease for most of their lives.

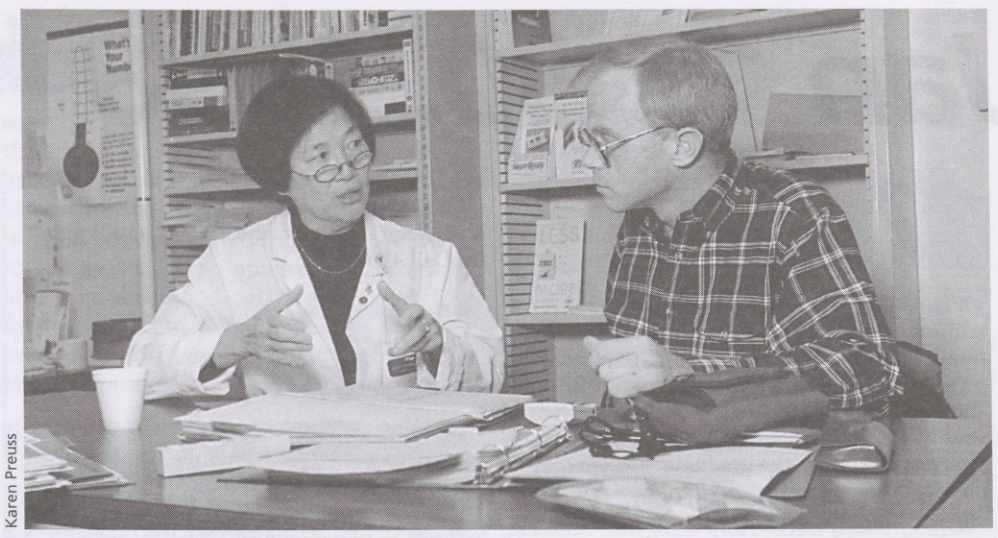
"Another thing that's a little bit unusual about our program is that we have a physician involved every day," McGrath said. "It's really a full team — physician, nurses, dietitian, social worker, pharmacist, researcher." The Center's educators have found through follow-up visits that the program's graduates improve their health. "We've seen tremendous results," McGrath said.

Much of what McGrath and Yee teach diabetics in their classes is based on a landmark study that showed that retinopathy, or eye disease, which is common among diabetics, could be decreased by 75 percent with intensive therapy. The Diabetes Control and Complications Trial (DCCT), which began in the early 1980s, included 1400 people, some of whom practiced intensive therapy — three to four shots of insulin a day, four to six glucose tests a day and a monthly checkup with a team of caregivers. The other participants were on conventional therapy, with one to two shots a day and urine checks and quarterly checkups. After almost a decade of study, the researchers found not only that the risk for eye disease was drastically decreased with intensive therapy, but that all complications of diabetes were reduced.

Since Peggy Huang, a registered nurse and certified diabetes educator, started the education program in the School of Nursing in 1979, its physicians and researchers, such as the late Peter Forsham, a leading researcher in diabetes and former director of the Metabolic Research Unit, believed in this type of therapy.

"There has always been this real heavy slant towards intensive therapy at UCSF," McGrath said. "Peter Forsham was at UCSF for something like 40 years and he was a diabetic. He believed in this tight control, this intensive therapy. He really pushed the idea of multiple injections, kind of eating what you wanted but knowing the carbohydrate content of the food, from before we had the tools to do this."

McGrath and Yee said the Center has become a continuous resource for the program's graduates, who call back with questions as much as 15 years after completing the class. It creates an extra workload for the educators but also heightens their sense of purpose. "The thank-you letters are so touching," Yee said. "For example, we had a 24-year-old patient with major complications who took the class. She was legally blind and could not walk anymore. She wrote a letter saying that she could now see the hope. I was touched."



Karen Preuss

Peggy Huang, registered nurse and certified diabetes educator, offers personal instruction to patient Mark Goodson at the Diabetes Learning Center, a program she forged 20 years ago.

Got blood? Donor Center urges "Give it"

An estimated eight million people donate blood in the United States each year, but the demand for blood is greater than ever.

Every three seconds, someone needs blood, and every day approximately 40,000 units of blood are used throughout the country, according to the American Association of Blood Banks. More than 23 million units of blood and blood components are transfused each year.However, less than five percent of healthy Americans eligible to give blood actually donate each year.

The UCSF Stanford Health Care Blood Donor Center joined with the American Association of Blood Banks and other US blood centers to celebrate January's National Volunteer Blood Donor Month by honoring past and present blood donors, and encouraging new donors.

The Blood Donor Center, located at 505 Parnassus Ave, Room L131, encourages regular blood donations from healthy first-time and repeat donors. The Center's hours are Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 7:45 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.Stop by at your convenience; no appointment is needed. Or for information, call 476-6989.

A campus blood drive will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 28, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., at the Millberry Union Conference Center.

The Blood Donor Center offers the following reasons to donate blood:

- It is safe. The US Surgeon General and medical authorities agree that it is impossible to contract disease by giving blood.
- It is easy. Following registration, you will answer simple medical history questions and receive a mini-physical. Then, you will roll up your sleeve.You will feel only a brief pinch, and the donation will last 5-8 minutes. Afterward, you can relax for a few minutes with refreshments. The entire process takes approximately half-an-hour.
- Saving lives. You will be helping children and adults.Because donations are processed into a variety of blood components, each donation can save the life of as many as four people.
- Helping yourself: Your free mini-physical gives you a check for anemia, plus your body temperature, pulse and blood pressure.

Diversity (from page 1)

exercise — members learned about the person behind the labcoat, suit and tie, or work title.

"The fact that so many people with busy schedules are willing to invest their time speaks a lot about their commitment," said Norbeck.

The retreat, she said, helped committee members establish a trust among themselves that will be important as they tackle sensitive and important issues this year.

It would be easy for advocates of diversity to be discouraged by the current and uncertain political climate — Proposition 209 and the Regents' action three years ago to end UC affirmative action programs put up roadblocks, and future legislation may present even more obstacles. But the committee's co-chairs and members offer a refreshing optimism.

If there are more obstacles, "we'll redouble our efforts," said Norbeck. "Our goal is to achieve diversity."

"Many in this line of work have been committed to optimism for 20 years," said Adams, who is confident that diversity and affirmative action efforts can survive the constant attacks. Their optimism here comes partly from the fact that the campus in general embraces the idea of diversity, said Adams.

Adams

The new committee was appointed by Chancellor Haile Debas to follow up on the work of the previous ad hoc Steering Committee, which conducted a campuswide survey last year and offered a series of recommendations. Debas has asked the new committee to come back to the Chancellor's Cabinet with its own recommendations of specific actions to improve diversity at UCSF.

Last year's survey found that most people at UCSF think that students, faculty and staff should be required to receive training to better understand cultural differences. Although those surveyed differed over the effect of affirmative action policies, most agreed that diversity should be valued and promoted at UCSF. More than three-fourths of faculty and staff reported positive experiences due to the diversity of people at UCSF, and students choose to come to this campus because of its rich pluralism.

Among the recommendations by the previous committee are that campus leaders take direct responsibility for promoting diversity, training programs be made available to all campus members, and a system be established to monitor and evaluate the efforts of departments.

A faculty subcommittee has urged expanded recruitment and mentoring programs for junior faculty in an effort to hire and retain minority and women faculty.

"I feel both sober and hopeful about the growth toward diversity at UCSF," said Barbara Gerbert, professor and chair of the division of behavioral sciences in the School of Dentistry and chair of the faculty subcommittee. "I personally have been affected by and miss those valuable colleagues — women and ethnic minorities with impeccable credentials — who left schools for more nurturing environments.

"Following in the path of some of our cutting edge leaders in several departments, we must integrate programs to mentor junior faculty who are women and ethnic minorities and to foster the delivery of culturally competent care to those who seek care from our institution," said Gerbert, who is serving a second term on the committee.

Twelve, or one-third of the new committee, are repeat members, which should ensure continuity between the group that has made recommendations and the one that will act on them, said Norbeck.

"We must be experts in positive policies that move us in the right directions," said Adams. "This committee is one of the best vehicles to do this."

The Office of Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity, directed by Michael Adams, has changed its name to the **Office of Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunity and Diversity** to reflect the broad scope of services and programs that it offers.

Jan 17-30, 1998

17 Saturday

VIETNAMESE CULTURAL SHOW: The Vietnamese Student Association presents its annual cultural show, *Nho Ve Que Viet,* 6:30-9:30 p.m., Cole Hall. The VSA's annual cultural show has been traditionally organized each year by students from medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, nursing, the graduate division and physical therapy to enrich Vietnamese culture and celebrate the advent of the New Year. The program provides an opportunity to express identities of the American-Vietnamese, as well as enrich the public with "mixed" culture. The show includes traditional dances, skits and singing, which will depict Vietnamese culture through the eyes of students today. Free to everyone.

19 Monday

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.'S BIRTHDAY HOLIDAY

20 Tuesday

MLK COMMEMORATION WEEK

MLK VIDEO: A one-hour video entitled *One Man's Vision and Our Struggle for Humanity*, will be shown continuously, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., MedSci lobby, 513 Parnassus. Hear about the struggles against racism by various ethnic groups. Free. Call 476-6761.

MLK PRESENTATION: Come hear a presentation of awards honoring students, faculty and staff who have promoted diversity and led others to carry out the ideals inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., 3:30-4:30 p.m., Cole Hall. Free. Call 476-1008.

BROWN BAG LECTURE: John Beeson, financial planning and benefits office, presents Achieving Financial Independence in 1998, noon-1 p.m., at UCSF/Mount Zion Herbst Hall, 1600 Divisadero. Come hear a clear outline of what you can do to better manage your personal finances in order to achieve financial independence. Sponsored by Public Service Programs. Free. Call 476-4394.

CAG MEETING: The UCSF Community Advisory Group will meet from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., UCSF Laurel Heights Conference Center, 3333 California St. Open to the public. If you have any questions, contact the Community & Governmental Relations Office at 476-3206.

21 Wednesday

BROWN BAG LECTURE: The Honorable Amos C. Brown, supervisor for the City of San Francisco, presents *Of King and Country,* 12:10 p.m., HSW 300. Find out Supervisor Brown's opinion of whether the dream, which Martin Luther King Jr. envisioned yesterday, is alive today. Free. Sponsored by Public Services Programs. Call 476-4394.

CROSS-COUNTRY SKI CLASS & TRIP: Outdoors Unlimited's sign-up for beginner and intermediate cross-country ski classes & trips will be held at 7 p.m., OU Rental Center's classroom. Call OU for more information at 476-2078.

22 Thursday

MOBILE MAMMOGRAPHY VAN: The UCSF van offers convenient breast cancer screening, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., UCSF/Lakeshore Plaza, 1501 Sloat Blvd. The exam costs $75 and takes about 20 minutes. Written or verbal approval from a doctor is required. Call 476-2193 for an appointment and for other dates and locations.

RACE & GENDER DISCUSSION: Wilma Mankiller, former principal chief of theCherokee Nation, presents *A Conversation with Wilma Mankiller,* noon-1 p.m., Cole Hall, 513 Parnassus. Hear discussions on the connections between race and gender that inspire people to form coalitions for social justice. Free. Call 476-6761.

COLE HALL CINEMA: Millberry Programs & Services presents *Soul Food,* 5:45 & 7:45 p.m., Cole Hall. Rated R. Tickets may be purchased at the door only. Box office opens 1/2 hour before showtime. One discounted ticket per ID only. Cost $2 child (14 & under); $2.50 UCSF students/MU members; $3 UCSF staff/other students; and $3.50 general public. Call 476-6932.

23 Friday

WELLNESS LECTURE: Kenneth Lossing presents *Osteopathic Manipulation,* noon, HSW 300. Explore some of the basic theory and clinical applications of osteopathic manipulation to the musculoskeletal system, the central nervous system and the viscera. Sponsored by the Institute of Healing Arts & Sciences. Free. Call 584-4416.

POETS ON PARNASSUS: Come hear campus poets. Enjoy an opening reading with guest poets celebrating MLK Commemoration Week. For more information, call 476-6761.

COLE HALL CINEMA: See 1/22 listing. Showtimes are 6:30 & 8:30 p.m.

24 Saturday

PEDIATRIC SYMPOSIUM: The division of behavioral and developmental pediatrics, department of pediatrics, in conjunction with the Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Service, LPPI, present *An Update in Behavioral/Development Pediatrics,* 8 a.m., registration in MedSci lobby, 513 Parnassus and program in the School of Nursing Building. This program has been designed to provide an update of clinical approaches for particularly challenging childhood disorders and for common dilemmas of assessment and management. Cost $125/physicians & doctorate degrees; $95/nurses, therapists & educators; $50 for physicians in training with a letter of verification from the training program. To register, call 476-5808.

26 Monday

DEAN'S SEMINAR: Gregory J. Seymour, professor & dean, University of Queensland's School of Dentistry, Australia, presents *Dental Education in Queensland: The 1-3-1 Model & Other Developments,* 12:10-1 p.m., C 701 postgraduate auditorium. Please bring your lunches; light refreshments will be served. Sponsored by the School of Dentistry. Free. Call 476-1323.

BETTER VISION NOW: Douglas Holsclaw, assistant clinical professor, ophthalmology, presents *Better Vision Now*, 6 p.m., Beckman Vision Center, 8 Kirkham Ave. Free. Learn new surgery options for the correction of nearsightedness and astigmatism, from laser surgery to corneal implants. Call 476-5021

28 Wednesday

CHINESE/JAPANESE NEW YEAR

CAMPUS BLOOD DRIVE: The January Campus Blood Drive will take place all day from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., MU Conference Center. Please stop by at your convenience. Snacks will be provided by Just Desserts and Noah's Bagels. There will be a raffle drawing for blood donors: two free round-trip tickets from Southwest Airlines, a weekend stay for two at the San Francisco Marriott, a Sunday brunch for two at the Mark Hopkins Inter-Continental Hotel, and two tickets to Marine World Africa USA. Call 476-6989.

CAMPUS BLOOD DRIVE: Donate blood, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., MU conference center. No appointment is needed. Call 476-6989.

BROWN BAG LECTURE: Carl Djerassi, professor of chemistry at Stanford University and author of *Menachem's Seed*, *The Pill*, *Pygmy Chimps and Degas' Horse,* and *Steroids Made It Possible* presents *The Pill For Men? Facts Through Fiction,* 12:10 p.m., HSW 300. The "Father of the Pill" will be offering his unique perspective on men and women, reproductive technology and the fierce competition among research scientists. Free. Sponsored by Public Services Programs. Call 476-4394.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fashion show & trunk sale

The Hospital Auxiliary of the Medical Center and UCSF Stanford Health Care at San Francisco present Splendor in Silk & Jade, February 7, 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Radisson Miyako Hotel Imperial Room, Post & Laguna streets. Cost $50/65 preferred seating. Proceeds will go to the Patients Amenities Projects Fund for 1998-99; these projects are requested by the nurses and physicians on behalf of their patients at the UCSF Stanford Health Care at San Francisco, Parnassus Campus. Call 476-4906.

Wes Wong

UCSF employees showcase Splendor in Silk & Jade. From left, Carolyn Beltzer, event chair and vice president of the Hospital Auxilary Board of Directors; Angie Hirano, Department of Surgery Residency Coordinator; and Jazmine Bergeron of the Hemotology/ Oncology Clinic. Clothing designed by Anne Namba, jewelry by Patsy Tseng.

Beginner snowboard clinics

Outdoors Unlimited offers clinics that are tailored for the absolute beginner, and are a great way to help you learn a new skill. Clinics will be offered Feb. 7-8 and Mar. 14-15. For pre-trip dates, call 476-2078.

Black heritage panel discussion

The Women's Resource Center presents "Black Women's Hair: Relaxed, Natural, Braids, Dreadlocks...It's All Good!" February 10, noon-1 p.m., S 214. Participate in a lively discussion about the politics of Black women's hair and an exploration of the multi-faceted hairstyles — the do's and culture; hair as a social and political signifier in Black History — from Madam CJ Walker in the 20s to Black is Beautiful Afro Puffs in the 60s to present day Tri-Color Braids. A film by Ayoka Chenzira entitled *Hairpiece: A Film for Nappy Headed People,* will be shown. The film is an animated satire that looks at the question of self-image for Black women living in a society where beautiful hair is viewed as hair that blows in the wind. Free. Call 476-5222.

Self-defense class

Nina Haft, a certified self-defense teacher, rape crisis counselor and holder of a black belt in Kung Fu, presents Safe, Strong and Streetwise: Self-Defense and Assertiveness for Girls and Boys, February 21, 1:30-5:30 p.m., MU Fitness Center, Studio 2, 500 Parnassus Ave. This four-hour class for ages 8-12 introduces a broad range of self-defense strategies, including awareness, assertiveness, and basic physical fighting skills. The emphasis is on building confidence and having fun! Students will learn basic blocking, releases, strikes and ground fighting techniques. Participants will practice assertiveness and verbal self-defense in situations of their choosing. Myths and facts about date rape, child abuse, racism and peer pressure and gang violence will be discussed. Open to kids of all abilities. Cost $25/UCSF affiliates; $40 general public. Pre-registration is required. Call 476-5222.

Founders Day luncheon, lecture and banquet

The awards luncheon will be held March 9 at noon, MU Gymnasium. Luncheon is by invitation only. More details will be provided as they become available. Should you have questions, contact the Chancellor's Office at 476-2401. The Faculty Research Lecture will be held March 10 at 1 p.m., Cole Hall. The Founders Day Banquet will be held March 10 at the Ritz Carlton Hotel. Time of event is forthcoming.

Women leaders symposium

UCSF and UCB present A Symposium for Women in University Settings, featuring keynote speakers Dr. M. Joycelyn Elders, former US Surgeon General, along with Dr. Shirley S. Chater, former US Commissioner of the Social Security Administration and Dr. Judith B. Rosener, professor, UC Irvine's School of Business Management, March 12 at the Clark Kerr Campus, UC Berkeley. This symposium was developed to give women, especially those at UCSF and UCB campuses, an opportunity to come together to discuss and critically look at where women are today in gaining access to positions of leadership in higher education. The conference will explore how much work still needs to be done. Sponsored by UCSF Chancellor Haile Debas and the UCSF Women's Resource Center. For more information, call 476-5836 or visit the website at http://rebus.ucsf.edu/~wls.

Take Our Daughters to Work Day

Established by the Ms. Foundation in response to decreasing self-esteem in American girls ages 9-18, Take Our Daughters to Work Day, April 23, exposes children to the diversity of available job opportunities, and encourages a renewed interest in academic performance. In 1997, 732 girls and boys between the ages of 9 and 16 participated in 50 morning programs designed for them at Parnassus, Mission Center, 44 Montgomery, Mount Zion and San Francisco General Hospital. The experience was overwhelmingly positive for both parents and children. The event is sponsored by the Office of Public Affairs, the Chancellor's Advisory Committee on the Status of Women, the School of Dentistry Educational Support Services and the Women's Resource Center. Departments interested in participating should contact Katherine Riordan, Office of Public Affairs, by January 23 at 476-0729 to request a program guide and outline.

29 Thursday

COLE HALL CINEMA: Millberry Programs & Services presents *L.A. Confidential,* 5:45 & 7:45 p.m., Cole Hall. Rated R. Tickets can be purchased at the door only. Box office opens 1/2 hour before showtime. One discounted ticket per ID only. Cost $2 child (14 & under); $2.50 UCSF students/MU members; $3 UCSF staff/other students; and $3.50 general public. Call 476-6932.

30 Friday

WELLNESS LECTURE: Ken Farber presents *Mindfulness-based Wellness,* noon, HSW 300. Learn meditative practices to reduce stress and anxiety as well as nourish the mind, body and spirit. Learn how to apply "mindfulness" to cope with pain and suffering, along with how these methods are being applied in the clinical treatment of pain and illness. Sponsored by the Institute of Healing Arts & Sciences. Free. Call 584-4416.

COLE HALL CINEMA: See 1/29 listing. Showtimes are 6:30 & 8:30 p.m.

UCSF/Mount Zion promotes citywide gun exchange

As part of its ongoing campaign to end violence in the community, UCSF/Mount Zion is spearheading a citywide gun exchange this month, urging San Francisco residents to turn in their handguns.

The campaign, called "One Less Gun...One More Life," has spurred other medical centers, community groups and houses of faith to work together on the issue of handgun violence. Coinciding with the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, the gun exchange will be held January 17 at the Ella Hill Hutch Community Center, 1050 McAllister St., San Francisco from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Gift certificates from area stores will be given to those who turn in operable handguns and Bass Tickets will provide tickets to sporting events and concerts in exchange for weapons.

McNamara

"By offering a gun exchange, we are doing our best to take weapons off the street, thereby reducing the possibility of them being involved in a violent incident," said Marty Diamond, director of the UCSF/ Mount Zion Medical Center. "We are trying to spare society both an individual who might be hurt as well as the costs of caring for that person for a lifetime."

Diamond has worked with UCSF/ Mount Zion medical staff for the past few years to find ways to combat violence. At a time when gun violence is the leading cause of death to youth, UCSF/ Mount Zion has taken a leading role in the hospital community.

"It's in our best interest to get involved in violence prevention," Diamond said. "It's also a natural for health care workers who want to improve the human condition."

Along with Meg McNamara, chief of pediatrics for UCSF/Mount Zion, Diamond initiated the UCSF/Mount Zion Violence Prevention Program, which provides services for targeted families in the Western Addition. Funded by Mount Zion Health Systems, the Morris Stulsaft Foundation, the United Way and the state's Healthy Start program, Mount Zion's Violence Prevention Program provides counseling and education, emergency child care, and intensive family intervention for 45 families in the Western Addition who have been affected by violence. McNamara has also instituted training to help medical residents recognize symptoms of violence in families.

The gun exchange is not a new idea, but a way to keep the issue on the front burner, according to Diamond. Only one exchange has been held previously in San Francisco, in 1993. While no one expects criminals to turn in their weapons, sponsors hope it will create an awareness of how prominent guns are in everyday life. "By working with youth who are gang members, we are hopeful they too will participate in the exchange after learning about the devastating impact an injury from handguns has on a person," Diamond added.

In San Francisco, firearms caused 117 deaths in 1993 and were used in 80 percent of all homicides. In 1993, there were 436 visits to San Francisco General Hospital's emergency department for firearm injuries.

Working in tandem with the San Francisco Police Department, organizers have scheduled a second exchange for February 14.

— Dale Martin

Asthma rate continues to increase: Is modern living to blame?

By PAULA MURPHY

Asthma's increase in recent years is mystifying researchers. Theories of why asthma rates continue to rise despite improvement in outdoor air quality have led to some possible explanations but medical experts have little scientific data to prove them.

Studies have indicated that asthma is both a genetic and environmental disease. Multiple genes are thought to determine a person's predisposition to asthma and exposure to materials in the surrounding environment determines whether these genes express themselves or not.

An early theory of why the prevalence of asthma increases with rapid urbanization and with adoption of Western life styles was that industrial pollutants in outdoor air are responsible. But scientists are now questioning that theory and finding that the environment in one's home may be more dangerous than the environment outside.

The rise in mortality and hospitalization from asthma has occurred as air quality, as defined by the Environmental Protection Agency, has improved, said Homer Boushey, director of the Asthma Clinical Research Center at UCSF. Thus, there is a problem with the theory that industrial air pollution is responsible for the rise in asthma's prevalence in US cities. People who live in poverty, especially minorities in cities, have alarming rates of asthma. In San Francisco, 80 of the 280 students at a Hunters Point elementary school were diagnosed with asthma last year. Children in Bay View/Hunters Point (BVHP) were hospitalized at a rate of nearly 80 per 10,000 for asthma, as compared to the state average of 22 per 10,000, according to a report by Kevin Grumbach, assistant professor of family and community medicine. For adults in this section of the city, the rate of 46 was five times higher than the state's, and for the elderly, the rate nearly tripled the state numbers.

Although BVHP has 700 hazardous waste material facilities, 325 petroleum-storage tanks and two Superfund cleanup sites located in the district, researchers believe it may be the indoor air that is to blame. Many people in BVHP are poor, and thus may live in buildings infested with cockroaches and other allergen producers, such as house dust mites and tobacco smoke. Moreover, a study of childhood asthma rates in the former East and West Germanys has also suggested that outdoor air quality is not the prime agitator. Researchers found a

higher rate of asthma in the West, where the levels of air pollutants, especially of sulfates and particulates, are substantially lower than in the East.

Most people spend 80 percent or more of their time indoors, and with the introduction of wall-to-wall carpeting, reduced turn-over of indoor air (to save on heating costs), and the rise in popularity of cats as indoor pets, the population of the developed world may be exposed to higher concentrations of sensitizing allergens than ever before. The "big three" of indoor allergens known to sensitize humans are house dust mite, cat dander and cockroach.

"In Europe and the United States, the prevalence of asthma is about five percent, but the rate of increase in some parts of the developing world is shocking," Boushey said. In San Francisco, although outdoor air quality is "pretty good," Boushey said, "we have lots of cats, a damp environment, older homes that have lots of sensitizing molds, and long, overlapping pollen seasons."

"Migration from industrializing to industrialized countries has been identified as a risk factor for Asian children moving to the UK and for Pacific islanders moving to Australia and New Zealand," stated the journal *The Lancet* in its asthma supplement. "The same phenomenon has been observed in within-country migration from rural to urban areas, in most, but not all, studies in industrializing countries."

This pattern is taking place in the US, where asthma affects 14 to 15 million persons and kills more than 5,000 people annually. "Asthma is less common among African-Americans who live in rural Georgia than it is among those who have migrated to Atlanta," Boushey said. "With the move to an urban environment, changes in the allergens inhaled are probably accompanied by changes in diet and exercise, and some experts speculate that these changes may somehow alter how people respond to allergens they inhale."

The urban, modern lifestyle may also account for why children are getting asthma at such a high rate. "The peak of asthma is in children," Boushey said. "There is a dramatic increase in children bringing inhalers to school, especially in Hunters Point." This increase is evident in other parts of the world. "Urban areas in Southeast Asia have reported a four-fold increase in the number of children with asthma," Boushey said. Some researchers have speculated that because children spend more time at home and play close to the ground, they are more exposed to allergens.

There is yet another theory of why asthma has increased in modern day Western civilization. Because vaccines and antibiotics have reduced the frequency and severity of infections of the respiratory tract, and because public health measures have reduced the prevalence of parasitic infections of the gut, some researchers believe that the balance is altered between Th1 lympho-

(See **Asthma** on page 8)

Cool way to save energy at Laurel Heights

By CLAIRE ANSELMO

Energy efficiency is at the top of the list as one UCSF site undergoes the first stage of reconstruction.

At Laurel Heights, four new cooling towers, temporarily sitting in the west parking lot, soon will replace older ones, meaning not only 16 car spaces regained, but also an improved air conditioning system for current and future UCSF departments at Laurel Heights.

Installation of the cooling towers is part of the complete replacement of all mechanical and electrical systems in the reconstruction of the Laurel Heights building. The project also entails putting two new energy-efficient chillers inside the annex (on the northwest corner of the parking lot), said Rob Purcell, senior project manager with Facilities Management.

The chillers, which are not yet on site, and the cooling towers make up a system that pumps chilled water to the building fans to provide air conditioning.

Besides marking the completion of the first phase of Laurel Heights' reconstruction, the new air conditioning system will be very energy efficient, Purcell said. The new system is expected to save about $2,000 to $3,000 per month in electrical charges. The system being replaced was older technology, requiring 1 kilowatt to produce one ton of cooling. The new system of chillers and cooling towers will be nearly twice as efficient, reducing energy by using only one-half a kilowatt per ton of cooling.

"This project will greatly aid UCSF in its efforts to keep down utility costs," said Dave Bohler, manager of technical engineering support for Facilities Management, whose group is responsible for the UCSF Water and Energy Awareness program.

In addition to saving energy, the new air conditioning system will help preserve the ozone layer, thanks to the new chillers to be installed with the new cooling towers. The new chiller system will use hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), an environmentally friendly alternative refrigerant to chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) that deplete the earth's ozone. Facilities Management will put in two chillers at a time, leaving one of the older chillers in place until the first two are up and running. Three of the four existing chillers are undergoing asbestos abatement and will be taken to a plant for recycling. Fifteen hundred pounds of refrigerant has been removed and recycled.

The old cooling towers were demolished on Dec. 1, after a crane lifted them off the roof.

"We will be working in and around the annex for the next six months," said Purcell. "The new chillers arrive in March, but we have left one in the annex in case we need air conditioning before then."

Despite the continued construction, ample parking for employees and visitors to Laurel Heights will still be available, Purcell said. The completion of this first phase of construction at Laurel Heights — including the annex — is set for summer 1998, Purcell said. The remaining construction should be complete in just over one year, he says, with the fourth floor scheduled to open for occupancy in late July 1998; the third floor is set to open in late November 1998; and the second floor is to open by late January 1999.

Some jobs are doubly doomed

A new study has found that the most hazardous jobs, as assessed by injuries and disease, also pay the least.

The majority of the occupations that the study, published in the December *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine,* ranks high in hazards are "blue-collar" jobs such as timber cutting and machine operating.

Rankings of 413 jobs were compiled by the occupation's total and average costs in worker's compensation. Workers with highly hazardous jobs, according to the study's total cost analysis, include truck drivers (1), janitors and cleaners (5), nursing aides, orderlies and attendants (6), miscellaneous food preparation occupations (15), timber cutters and loggers (16) and police officers (23). Physicians did not make the top 100 list but clerical workers, such as administrative support (78) and bookkeepers, accounting and auditing clerks (86), ranked relatively low.

The study found that registered nurses (29) and licensed practical nurses (62) generated "sizable costs" in injury and illness. "This suggests that nurses experience a considerable amount of injuries and illnesses on the job, both collectively and individually," the authors, J. Paul Leigh of San Jose State University and Ted R. Miller of the National Public Services Research Institute, wrote.

The authors found that the cost of on-the-job injuries totals $81 billion per year and that the most hazardous jobs are often not viewed as such. "Most of the high-cost per employee jobs...are not generally regarded as dangerous by the public."

RESEARCH ROUNDUP:

'Good' salts, 'bad' salts

The salts in fruits and vegetables may lower blood pressure and reduce the likelihood of stroke, while the chloride in table salt may raise blood pressure, according to a study published by UCSF researchers.

Their conclusions are based on a study of how blood pressure is affected by common salts, in which two different chemical species are drawn together by opposite electric charges.

The researchers used a rat model of high blood pressure and stroke to study potassium salts, such as are commonly found in fruits and vegetables, as well as a salt in which potassium is coupled to chloride. Coupled with a different partner, chloride also is a component of everyday table salt, sodium chloride.

The study published in the December 23 issue of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* concludes that it is not necessarily the sodium in table salt that should be blamed for dangerously boosting blood pressure. In many cases the culprit may be the chloride component of salt.

In contrast to table salt, potassium salts that do not contain chloride, such as are found in fruits and vegetables, can lower blood pressure.

Salt-sensitive hypertension is likely to encompass a range of sensitivities, according to R. Curtis Morris Jr., who led the study and who directs the National Institutes of Health-sponsored General Clinical Research Center at UCSF. "The blood pressure of some individuals is likely to be sensitive to the combination of sodium and chloride in table salt, but in others, blood pressure is probably sensitive to chloride even when it is not combined with sodium."

Morris' team studied a strain of rats that are genetically prone to high blood pressure and strokes to see how salts modified these susceptibilities. With sophisticated sensors to continuously monitor blood pressure in the aorta, Morris' group investigated the long-term effects of potassium chloride, potassium bicarbonate and potassium citrate, which is metabolized to potassium bicarbonate. Fruits and vegetables contain very little potassium chloride, but they are rich sources of potassium citrate and other potassium salts.

The researchers found that rats fed potassium chloride developed more severe hypertension compared to rats fed no potassium salt, but rats fed potassium citrate or bicarbonate developed hypertension of lesser severity.

About half of individuals with high blood pressures are salt sensitive, according to Morris, meaning that sodium chloride can worsen their condition.

Clinicians and researchers have long blamed the sodium in table salt for raising blood pressure. Conversely, potassium, a constituent of other salts, and one which, like sodium, carries a positive electrical charge, is believed to lower blood pressure. Potassium chloride therefore has been used to treat hypertension and in addition has been used to offset the potassium-depleting effect of other medications, called diuretics, which also are used to treat hypertension.

However, 10 years ago Morris and Theodore Kurtz, a professor of laboratory medicine at UCSF, found that non-chloride sodium salts do not induce hypertension in people with salt-sensitive hypertension, suggesting that chloride may play a role in high blood pressure.

The new UCSF rodent study suggests that the blood-pressure-raising influence of chloride offset the blood-pressure-lowering influence of the potassium in potassium chloride. Chloride-free salts such as potassium bicarbonate and potassium citrate, found in fruits and vegetables, can lower blood pressure and reduce the likelihood of strokes, and these salts may be good therapeutic substitutes for potassium chloride in many instances, Morris said.

In the UCSF study, the chloride salt appeared to activate one of the kidney's normal mechanisms for increasing blood pressure. A key kidney-produced enzyme, called renin, which activates this mechanism, was elevated in the blood of the chloride-fed rats.

This change induced by chloride may have contributed to the increased incidence of stroke measured in the rats fed potassium chloride, and activation of this same mechanism might also contribute to stroke in humans, Morris suggests.

The physicians who co-authored the UCSF study include Masae Tanaka, Olga Schmidlin, Sai-Li Yi and Andrew W. Bollen. The study was funded by the NIH, and by gifts from the Church and Dwight Corporation and the Emil Mosbacher Jr. Foundation.

—Jeffrey Norris

Growth factor inhibits regulation of immune sytem's T-cell response

UCSF researchers report that they have made a novel — and surprising — finding that could offer new insights into the way in which immune system T-cells are regulated.

In the Jan. 2 issue of *Science*, they report that an extracellular signal prevented a key enzyme-like receptor from carrying out its regulatory role on T-cells. The receptor, CD45, is a protein tyrosine phosphatase required for initiating the response of T-cells to perceived pathogens.

While T-cells are critical for mounting immunological responses to pathogens, they also are involved in allograft rejection and autoimmune diseases. Thus, understanding CD45 regulation could shed light on T-cell responses, which, in turn, could ultimately lead to improved treatments for immune disorders.

In an even more unexpected finding, the scientists also report that inhibition of the CD45 phosphatase receptor is caused by dimerization, a process in which two adjacent molecules in the receptor's extracellular domain wedge together, in a molecular swish of the hips.

This is particularly significant, because dimerization of the extracellular domain in enzyme-like receptors had previously been known only to catalyze reactions — each molecular tail sparking action in the other. The formation of the dimer, or molecular subunits, in the CD45 phosphatase receptor apparently caused each molecule to block the other's catalytic site.

"This is a novel finding," said Arthur Weiss, a professor of medicine at UCSF and a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator. "Dimerization of almost every other type of receptor has always been viewed as activating. This observation provides evidence that dimerization of a receptor inhibits its function and provides molecular evidence for how that occurs. It is also the first clue regarding the regulation of this class of transmembrane enzymes."

Because the molecular factor, or ligand, that naturally binds to the CD45 phosphatase receptor's extracellular domain is not known, the scientists created a model receptor to probe CD45 regulation. The model was a chimera of the epidermal growth factor receptor and CD45. As growth factor is a common regulatory factor in T-cells, the UCSF finding suggests the likelihood that some factor may inhibit CD45 phosphatase activity.

While little is known about the way in which the protein tyrosine phosphatase receptor functions and is regulated, scientists do know that it acts in concert with another intracellular enzyme, Lck, a tyrosine kinase. The two enzymes control the cascade of signaling molecules that drive T-cells to become activated — alerting the cells to danger, prompting a response and then getting them to settle down again.

Tyrosine kinases initiate the signaling cascade, through the process of phosphorylation, in which a phosphate group is added to a signaling protein, stimulating action. The CD45 tyrosine phosphatase, in turn, removes a phosphatate group, inhibiting Lck kinase function and thereby stopping the T-cell response. Thus, the two receptors play complementary roles in controlling T-cell response.

The researchers focused specifically on the CD45 tyrosine phosphatase receptor because it is the major transmembrane phosphatase receptor expressed on T-cells and has been strongly implicated in T-cell development and function. In the absence of this receptor, there is developmental arrest in mice. Research also indicates that at least two people have been immunodeficient as a result of the absence of this receptor in T-cells.

Now, says Weiss, the researchers need to find out what the naturally occurring extracellular domain looks like and what molecule binds to it. And they need to determine how important their observation regarding dimerization is.

To this end, they plan to insert a mutation that inactivates the observed inhibitory dimer wedge into the CD45 gene in a mouse. Presumably, says Weiss, the mutation will inactivate the inhibitory wedge, allowing the enzyme-like receptor to carry out the process of dephosphorylation in an unregulated fashion.

—Jennifer O'Brien

Funds available

HIV/AIDS pilot study research funds are available from the UCSF AIDS Clinical Research Center, a component of UCSF AIDS Research. The deadline for the next funding cycle is Monday, February 2. Applicants may submit studies in basic science, epidemiology, behavioral science, as well as clinical trials. Predoctoral students interested in AIDS research are also eligible.

They are also seeking faculty members for inclusion in a database of peer reviewers for the Pilot Study Program. Peer reviewers complete a confidential form addressing the merits of a proposed pilot research project within their field of expertise.

Contact Layne Ethington at 476-8857 or stom%layne@ccmail. ucsf.edu.

MEDICAL CALL BOARD

Domestic violence response

Domestic violence is a leading cause of injury among women — resulting in 21,000 hospitalizations, 99,800 inpatient days, 28,700 emergency department visits, and 39,900 doctor visits annually in the US, according to Barbara Gerbert, chair of the division of behavioral sciences in the UCSF School of Dentistry.

A recent UCSF study headed by Gerbert focuses on survivors of domestic violence who have had positive experiences with their physicians.

"People who have had positive experiences are hard to find, and one goal of this study is to develop practical and effective ways for physicians to provide better health care to victims of domestic violence," Gerbert said.

UCSF researchers conducted face-to-face, confidential two- to three-hour long interviews with 30 survivors of domestic violence. Gerbert is extending the study, funded by a $1.5 million grant from the National Institute of Mental Health.

The researchers are seeking more participants, who will be paid $100 for completing the interview. Participants must be a survivor of domestic violence who got out of a physically abusive relationship; have had a positive experience with a medical doctor during the relationship; currently live in a safe environment; speak English.

Emergency, primary care and ob/gyn physicians who feel they are doing a good job caring for survivors of domestic violence or have had positive experiences with battered patients are also needed to participate in focus groups.

For information, call 800/859-8389, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Uterine cancer survivors

The UCSF/Mount Zion Cancer Center is launching a study designed to resolve a dilemma confronting survivors of uterine cancer: Is it safe to take estrogen replacement therapy (ERT) or will estrogen increase the risk of having a second bout with the disease?

The UCSF study is part of a nationwide ERT study, launched by the National Cancer Institute. Researchers are seeking women who had recent surgery for uterine cancer diagnosed at stage I or II. The women will be divided randomly into two groups. Over a three-year period, one group will receive pills containing estrogen and the other will receive pills without estrogen. Both groups will have check-ups every six months for three years and annually for two additional years.

Contact Bethan Powell, at 885-3610.

Fatigue in cancer patients

Fatigue is the most common and distressing symptom experienced by cancer patients. Despite this high prevalence, few studies have addressed interventions for fatigue's prevention and treatment. The overall purpose of this pilot study is to determine the effects of a systematic exercise training program on the outcomes of fatigue, selected underlying mechanism of fatigue, and overall quality of life in cancer patients receiving chemotherapy treatment.

Participants must: be at least 18 years old; have confirmed tissue diagnosis of malignancy; read, write and understand English; have Karnofsky Performance Status greater than 60 percent; be able to understand and complete the written informed consent; have expected survival of at least 12 months; be beginning initial or a new course of a 21-day or a 28-day course of CT.

Exclusion criteria include: uncontrolled hypertension, cardiac disease or diabetes; diagnosis of AIDS of leukemia; lytic bone lesions or orthopedic limitations preventing regular exercise training; other absolute contraindications to exercise testing as established by the American Heart Association or the American College of Sports Medicine; bone marrow transplantation or concurrent radiation therapy (RT); long-term steroid or antidepressant medications.

The purpose of this pilot study is to compare the outcomes between the experimental group (exercise intervention) and the control group (usual activities). It is imperative that clients continue "usual activities" prior to and during the study. They must not be exposed to additional fitness activities so a true appraisal of the protocol may be made.

Contact Kathleen Dzubaur, Mt. Zion Cardiac Rehab Center, 510/597-1189 or Marylin Dodd, UCSF School of Nursing, 415/476-4320.

Fever and anesthesia

The UCSF Outcomes Research Group is conducting a study evaluating the effects of fever (induced by injection of a drug Interleukin-2) combined with general anesthesia (gas), on central temperature. This is a five-day study, consisting of three general anesthesia days (for 3-5 hours) and two non-anesthesia control days. The length of each day ranges from 8-11 hours with the exception of one day (control) being only 4 hours long. The study days are typically scheduled 5-7 days apart.

Participants must be in good health, between the ages of 18 and 35 years, a non-smoker, drug and medication free, and be of average weight or height. A one-day preliminary (fever alone) study will determine fever pattern in general.

Participants will be paid a total of $825 for the entire five-day study, plus an extra $125 for the preliminary study.

Call Azita in the Outcomes Research Office at 476-3169 for information.

OB/GYN team designs computer program for expecting parents

By ABBY SINNOTT

A UCSF obstetrician and nurse-midwife who have guided thousands of women through their pregnancies are now putting their expertise on-line.

Russell K. Laros Jr., vice chair of obstetrics and colleague Tekoa King of the department of obstetrics, gynecology and reproductive sciences, have developed a computer software program called InfanTime. The new program is designed to provide parents-to-be with extensive information about their pregnancies so they are able to take a more proactive stance toward their health care.

"This is the kind of information that will serve as both a resource and a guide to prospective parents, such as deciding if they want to approach their physician about genetic counseling or their nurse practitioner about breast-feeding," Laros said.

The package features more than 200 screens of up-to-date medical information starting from pre-conception and following up to six weeks post-delivery.

King said the program addresses the real questions and concerns of patients, rather than issues a book publisher presumes expecting parents worry about.

"Unlike some books that tell the reader to consult a doctor, we're able to offer a wealth of information directly from a doctor and nurse-midwife," she said.

InfanTime features a personalized calculator that monitors the pregnancy from the first day of the missed period right up until the due date. It also provides customized information during pregnancy about the baby's gestational age, weight and length. An education module outlines pregnancy symptoms, warning signs of complications, and provides advice on nutrition and lifestyle.

As the pregnancy progresses, the program offers guidelines on preparing a birth plan and what to expect in the first weeks following delivery. A random selection of 3,000 male and female names is displayed on the screen-saver, enabling parents to consider unusual as well as popular names.

InfanTime is the culmination of 40 years of combined medical experience by the UCSF team. Over the last 22 years, Laros collected data on birth experiences at the Medical Center, and this information served as a resource for developing the computer program. King drew on her clinical experiences as a nurse practitioner and midwife.

Laros noted that some health information on the Internet may be medically inaccurate or come from questionable sources, but all text featured on the new software program conforms to guidelines of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

InfanTime (Laros, Ltd., $39.95) is available through mail order at 2232 Ivanhoe Street, Denver, Colo. 80207, or phone order at 888/248-5030. It also can be ordered via the Internet at: http://www.infantime.com.

Tom Wachs

Dean Ornish discussed his latest findings on heart disease before a rapt audience at Cole Hall, Jan. 12. Following a slide presentation detailing successful attempts to treat heart disease without surgery or drugs, Ornish and Anne Thorson (right), medical director of the Heart Disease Reversal Program at UCSF/CPMC, fielded questions from the audience.

Mayor's AIDS & HIV Summit

On Tuesday, Jan. 27, Mayor Willie Brown will hold an all-day AIDS conference at the Masonic Auditorium. In preparation for "Summit on AIDS & HIV," committees of experts and activists have been meeting under the direction of UCSF professors Marcus Conant and Thomas Coates to draft recommendations on how the City should proceed in its fight against the disease.

One of the issues to be addressed at the conference is workplace re-entry. "Because of combination therapy, people with HIV are not given incentive to go back to work because they would lose their benefits," Coates said. "We need to ensure that they won't lose medical or disability benefits in the future." Other recommendations will deal with substance abuse treatment on-demand and strengthening prevention efforts, which Coates said should be of the highest priority for many city departments. The goal of the conference is that the recommendations "provide a blueprint for the City on how it should deal with HIV issues," Coates said.

According to coordinator Dick Pabich, UCSF has played an integral role in the summit. "UCSF people, particularly from AIDS Prevention Studies and the AIDS Research Institute, have been a leading force behind the development of the recommendations and I believe they will be very involved in their implementation," Pabich said.

—Paula Murphy

WomenCare Clinic provides mental health care to female community

By ABBY SINNOTT

About 20 percent of all women experience an episode of depression at least once in their lifetime, according to a mental health specialist at UCSF.

"Seventy percent of psychiatric outpatients are women and depression is twice as common in females as it is in males," said Ellen Haller, director of WomenCare Mental Health Clinic, a new clinical service at UCSF. "There are many mental health problems that are unique to women, such as PMS and post-partum disorders."

Because of the significant need for specialized mental health care for women, the UCSF department of psychiatry established WomenCare Mental Health Clinic as a clinical, educational and research service dedicated to delivering gender-specific mental health care to female patients.

Haller, who is an associate adjunct professor of psychiatry says that WomenCare's specialists practice a multifaceted approach to evaluating and treating patients. In addition to the biological and hormonal status of patients, they also consider life cycle stages, reproductive events and societal pressures faced by women.

The WomenCare Clinic currently offers patients individual as well as group therapy treatments. In the future, the clinic plans to sponsor public educational seminars on various women's health issues, such as stress management, depression, and balancing careers and personal relationships.

At present, the clinic has a caseload of approximately 60-70 women, and the majority belong to managed health care plans that typically do not cover long-term mental health treatments. Haller notes that HMOs generally focus on short-term and crisis intervention therapy and often cover only 6-10 sessions.

Coverage by third-party payers is a major obstacle in achieving effective mental health care because some clinic patients have chronic issues that require long-term treatment, Haller says. One of WomenCare's services is educating patients about various insurance plans so they are informed about mental health care options that are most conducive to their needs.

Depression and PMS are two of the most common problems among WomenCare patients, Haller said. She will address both issues at the annual UCSF symposium, Women's Health 2000, on the UCSF campus on Saturday, March 21. The event is open to the public, and more than 25 women's health topics will be discussed.

"I want women to know how to get help for these disorders and that these are treatable illnesses," Haller says. "Depression makes a person feel hopeless about ever feeling better. Many women who experience PMS think that they have to endure it every month while they wait eagerly for menopause, but it doesn't have to be that way."

WomenCare opened in July 1997 at the UCSF/Mount Zion Medical Office Building at 2330 Post Street and is funded by the UCSF psychiatry department, chaired by Craig Van Dyke. The clinic staff currently includes Judy Eastwood, LCSW; Nancy Kaltreider; and Haller. In addition, four fourth-year psychiatric residents work in the clinic as a component of their psychotherapy training.

For more information about WomenCare Mental Health Clinic, call 353-7273.

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Library catalog on the web

The UCSF Library and Center for Knowledge Management released a World Wide Web version of the UCSF Library Catalog. The system will provide an easy-to-use web-based interface to search for UCSF books and journal titles on GALEN II. New online forms for borrowing materials that are not owned by the UCSF Library will also be available on GALEN II.

With these new features, users will be able to search the catalog and then place interlibrary borrowing requests for materials not owned by the Library using only their web browser. Although telnet software will no longer be required to search the UCSF Library Catalog, the telnet version will still be available for those who prefer to use it.

The UCSF Library Catalog can be accessed through GALEN II, the UCSF Digital Library, at http://www.library.ucsf.edu/. Simply select the "Finding Books and Journals" link from any GALEN II page. For more information, contact the Information Services department at info@library.ucsf.edu.

Meal planning for cancer patients

Grilled fresh salmon, winter-roasted vegetables and persimmon and Granny Smith apple cobbler are not just the stuff of menus in San Francisco's best restaurants.

They are also on the menu of a special dinner for cancer patients that will be served in the dining room of UCSF/Mount Zion on January 22. The Healthy Eating Program is a special event offered by the UCSF/Mount Zion Cancer Resource Center. UCSF/Mount Zion chefs will prepare a gourmet meal for 25 cancer patients to help them learn about healthy eating during their treatment. The program is the brainchild of Keren Stronach, coordinator of the UCSF Cancer Resource Center, and volunteer Bernadette Festa, nutritionist.

"Diet is a real focus for cancer patients," Stronach said. "One feels so helpless in the face of the disease. One area where people have control is in their diet. A well-nourished body is better able to handle the rigors of treatment and may therefore be able to heal better."

"We also want to introduce patients to new foods that are easy to make and are healthy," Stronach said. "But the dinner also provides patients a chance to meet others who are going through the same thing."

Medical evidence is building on the importance of diet in cancer prevention. An estimated 30 to 40 percent of cancers are related to diet, according to oncologist Ernest Rosenbaum, UCSF clinical professor of medicine.

As a physician and author of "Everyone's Guide to Cancer Therapy," Rosenbaum acknowledges the difficulty in convincing people to make positive lifestyle changes.

The sit-down dinner will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. in the UCSF/Mount Zion Nosherie, 1600 Divisadero St., San Francisco. A donation of $10 for the event is requested. Reservations are required and may be made by contacting Stronach at the Cancer Resource Center, 885-3693.

Writing job descriptions

UCSF Development and Training Division if offering a course to assist managers, supervisors and department personnel representatives in effectively writing job descriptions. Held January 28 from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., the course is designed for those who are in decision-making positions regarding this process in their departments.

Participants will review guidelines for preparing job descriptions and the elements of the point factor system that are used in helping to determine appropriate job classifications. By looking at actual job descriptions, participants will practice rating jobs and describing jobs to reflect their appropriate classifications. Participants will be asked to submit a sample job description prior to the course.

Enrollment is open to UCSF employees only. Call 476-4032 for information.

Making sense of smell at Tomkins lecture

By JEFF MILLER

mell may play second fiddle to the more esteemed senses of sight, hearing, touch and taste. But as the 22nd Gordon Tomkins lecturer Richard Axel, Higgins Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics at Columbia University, made clear to a packed Cole Hall audience on January 9, odor recognition is a primal gateway to the brain — and to that assembly of sensory experience we call perception.

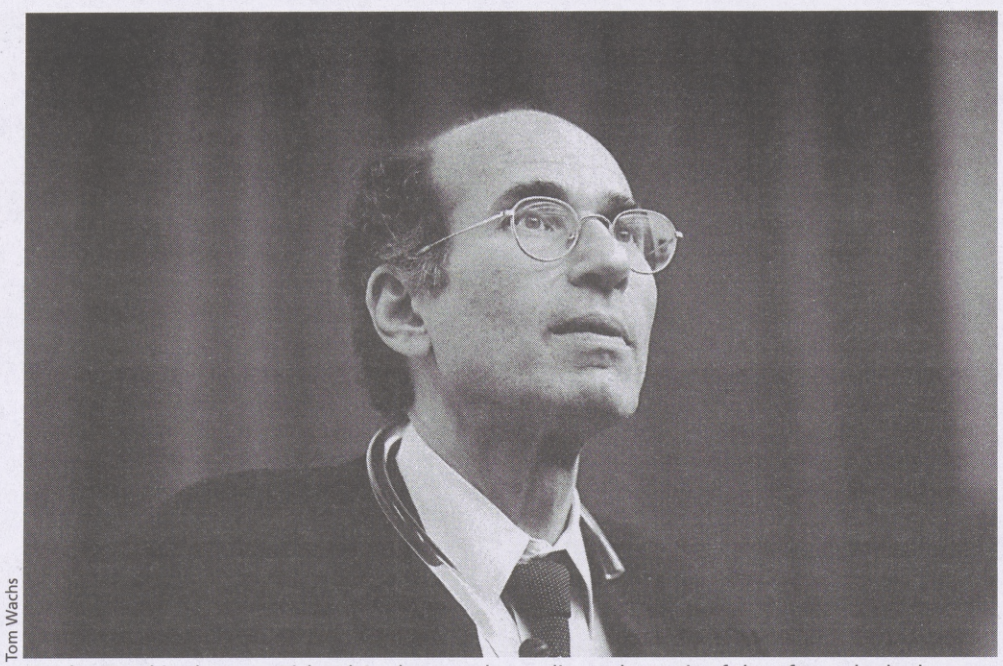
Sketching the historical and philosophical theories of perception, from Descartes to Kant, Axel explained that only with the advent of advanced biological techniques had scientists been able to answer what philosophers could not. "It is true that each species sees a limited version of the outside world and sees it differently."

Moreover, as Axel's own genetic studies of olfaction have revealed, "We are trapped in a representation of the word determined by our genes."

How this happens has best been demonstrated in mice studies. Using various molecular genetic techniques, Axel and his laboratory colleagues have shown that four families of genes, numbering perhaps 1,500 in all, are engaged in encoding odor reception. Axel's team also has determined that the brain discriminates smell through discrete activation of single receptors, which form part of a topographic map in the brain. "Different odors — rose and jasmine, for instance — elicit distinct patterns of spatial activity in the brain's olfactory bulb, which are then sent on to higher control centers."

The same system may be employed by the so-called "erotic" nose which detects pheromones — odors associated with arousal and mating. Experiments to test this hypothesis now are under way, as are those which seek to explain how the complex topographic map of smell is formed during development. What already seems clear, said Axel, is that the sense of smell would not have developed if it did not enhance a species' ability to survive. Unraveling its molecular secrets may further explain how the brain makes sense of the outer world with which it interacts.

The Gordon Tomkins Lecture and Concert, sponsored by the Herbert W. Boyer Fund and the UCSF department of biochemistry and biophysics, honors a late professor known for his eccentric, inspirational and original genius and his love of art and music. In keeping with a two-decade old tradition, the lecture, entitled "Scents and Sensibility," followed a performance by the San Francisco Chamber Players.



Tom Wachs

Gordon Tomkins lecturer Richard Axel waxes rhapsodic on the topic of the oft overlooked olfactory bulb, at Cole Hall.

UCSF ups its ranks of certified coders

In recent years, the federal government has been holding university hospitals more accountable for billings to federally funded medical programs.UCSF has not been immune from the heightened scrutiny and is currently being audited for its Medicare billings. In its compliance with the audit, the University has gone an extra step: 41 employees recently received national certification for procedural coding after 80 hours of class time, countless hours of homework and a grueling five-hour exam.

"To the extent that we can sort of show them [federal auditors] that we're trying to comply that will only serve the University well," said Jaclyne Boyden, vice dean for administration and finance. "One way we're certainly trying to comply is to make sure our staff is as knowledgeable as possible about the right way to code."

Coding is what clinical employees do to ensure that physician services are billed properly. "When a doctor sees you and treats you, so much goes on in his head in trying to determine history of illness, symptoms, and all these types of things," said Raymond Buck, compliance officer in the School of Medicine. "Somebody has to turn what the physician does into something numeric so somebody can put a price tag on it and pay for it." The process has become complex over the years, Buck said, with over 7,000 procedural codes, 15,000 diagnosis codes and a limited number of people proficient in coding.

"The government has started to hold us not only more accountable for coding but they suggest that if we do this improperly we could be guilty of fraud," Buck said.

Up to now, employees at UCSF who were responsible for coding diagnoses and procedures received no formal training. UCSF hired Genevieve Daley, an RN who owns a certification training company, to teach a class every Monday and Tuesday of October and November to prepare employees for the Certified Procedural Coder exam. Forty-seven employees, including administrative clerks, managers and directors, took the course and 41 passed.

"These people went through this and used their own money and studied on their own time and we ended up with 41 people on the campus who are certified coders, which is more than any other institution we know of," Boyden said. "It really speaks to the dedication of the staff, people's wanting to improve their ability to do their job and the University's commitment to follow the rules and regulations appropriately."

Asthma (from page 5)

cytes, which fight infection, and Th2 lymphocytes, which are thought to defend against parasites. According to this theory, the decline in respiratory infections in early childhood means that the Th1 lymphocytes aren't kept active enough to inhibit activity of Th2 lymphocytes in the lungs. The Th2 lymphocytes, no longer attracted to fight parasites in the gut, are free to act in the respiratory tract. "It is as if these Th2 lymphocytes are looking for a purpose, and, when they encounter an allergen, think it's a parasite and attack it," said Boushey, emphasizing that this theory is far from proven.

"It raises this caveat that in changing tremendously the usual childhood infections that we all get and our immune systems evolving...there may be some immune consequences that nobody factored in," said Richard Locksley, professor of medicine and microbiology and immunology. "But nobody is suggesting that we stop childhood vaccinations. It is still at the level of being observational. The challenge is to find out if they [childhood vaccinations and asthma increase] are truly related."

Many UCSF researchers are studying asthma, from its cellular functions to clinical studies of asthma treatments. At a recent Dean's Research Seminar, Dean Sheppard, professor of medicine and director of the Lung Biology Center at SFGH, Locksley, and David Corry, assistant professor of medicine, presented their research on asthma. Corry and Locksley discussed studies of transgenic mice indicating a primary role for lymphocytic production of interleukin-4 in mediating the pulmonary response to allergic sensitization and challenge, while Sheppard showed results from other studies of transgenic mice indicating that a disorder in the expression or function of adhesion molecules on airway epithelial cells may play a fundamental role in asthma's pathogenesis.

Although advances have been made in asthma therapies in recent years, Boushey said there is room for improvement in asthma's diagnosis and treatment. "Where we need to improve is in making an objective assessment of severity," Boushey said. "Retrospective studies of people who die from asthma show that 15 to 30 percent were thought to have had mild asthma prior to their last attack. A first step is to be sure that all patients with asthma know they are at risk, albeit a very low one for people with mild disease, and are taught how to recognize when they are getting into trouble and what to do if this occurs."

UCSF's asthma education program teaches asthmatics about their disease and how to avoid exacerbations of it. "It's important to have a close connection and partnership with the clinician who is caring for the asthma for a correct assessment of the severity," said Susan Janson, a nurse educator who directs the program. She says the goal of asthma management is to be symptom-free and able to engage in any activity, such as sports or work, without interruption.

"Be an advocate for yourself," Janson said. "Nobody should be having daily symptoms. If they do, they have very severe asthma or their treatment is not adequate and they should go back to their physician for a change in treatment."

Trench (from page 1)

strains that have afflicted AIDS patients have been identified, according to Koehler. While infection with B. quintana does not appear to be widespread, the real incidence of infection is underestimated, Koehler suggested.

"The homeless are an incredibly neglected population in terms of medical care," Koehler said. "To a large extent this disease may go undiagnosed among the homeless, and when it gets into AIDS patients who are homeless it can actually kill them."

A related bacterium, Bartonella henselae, was first identified a few years ago as a cause of bacillary angiomatosis in AIDS patients and as the cause of 22,000 cases of "cat scratch fever" each year. In a previous study Koehler determined that B. henselae appears to be transmitted to AIDS patients from their cats.

Koehler and colleagues found that 41 percent of the cats tested in San Francisco had B. henselae in their bloodstreams and that fleas easily transmit this bacterium from cat to cat. Koehler advises AIDS patients to wash after exposure to cats and to control fleas as much as possible, but the threat of infection does not warrant getting rid of beloved pets.

In the current study, Koehler's research team found that 26 of the HIV-positive bacillary angiomatosis patients were infected with B. henselae. Infection with this bacterial species was strongly associated with exposure to cats and cat fleas, but not to poverty, homelessness or exposure to lice.

The two disease agents cause many similar symptoms, but in the current study only B. henselae was associated with a condition in which blood-filled cysts arise within the liver and decrease liver function. Only B. quintana was associated with bone growths. The name bacillary angiomatosis refers to the unexplained ability of the bacteria to stimulate the formation of blood vessels that feed these growing lesions.

The good news for the HIV-infected who have access to health care is that common antibiotics, called macrolides—which already are prescribed for the HIV-infected to prevent and treat another opportunistic bacterial infection called Mycobacterium avium complex—can apparently simultaneously prevent and treat bacillary angiomatosis that arises from infection with either Bartonella species, Koehler said.

Regents (from page 1)

- $14.6 million to enroll 2,000 more students and an additional $6 million targeted for 800 undergraduate students in engineering and computer and information science programs.
- $7 million for the Industry-University Cooperative Research Program, which promotes research partnerships between UC and private industry, bringing total state funding for this program to $12 million next year. These partnerships focus on research in areas critical to the state's economy.
- $5 million to support academic programs and planning for UC's proposed 10th campus, bringing the total funding for the proposed Merced campus to $10 million.
- $4 million for instructional technology to provide students access to state-of-the-art technology.
- $3.4 million for other projects such as the International Thermonuclear Reactor project and funding for UC students to work in K-12 schools.
- $3 million for the California Digital Library, which over time will provide Californians access to all of UC's libraries. The initial emphasis will be the information needs of UC students.
- $1 million to develop courses for the California Virtual University, which will provide students online access to courses from potentially more than 200 accredited universities.
- $6 million for building maintenance.
- $6 million to pay for long-term financing of up to $50 million for deferred maintenance projects.

The governor's budget plan provides $151 million for capital improvements on UC's nine campuses, dependent on voter approval of a bond measure later this year. The governor has proposed to place on the ballot a $1 billion bond measure for public higher education that would be shared by UC, the California State University and California Community Colleges. The proposed bond measure does not resolve the University's long-term capital needs, associated with projected enrollment growth.